



Foreign Agricultural Service

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## **Cuba**

# **Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards**

## **Country Report**

**2002**

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### **Report Highlights:**

**Cuba's current food and agriculture import regulations allow for most U.S. processed foods to enter with a minimal documentation and few labeling and packaging changes. The most significant changes for U.S. food products are that they be labeled in Spanish and that the label include the expiration date. All processed food and beverage products must undergo sanitary registration prior to importation. Trademark registration, while not required, is strongly recommended.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Miami [C11], CU

**This report was prepared by the Caribbean Basin Agricultural Trade Office (CBATO) of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)/U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Miami, Florida for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

## **SECTION I. FOOD LAWS**

Cuba remains highly dependent on imports of agricultural products to satisfy the food needs not only of its population (estimated at nearly 12 million), but also of its tourism sector, the country's largest industry. Given the trade embargo imposed by the United States over the past four decades, Cuba has found it necessary to source its agricultural imports from elsewhere, namely Canada, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Most of Cuba's food needs are imported by the Cuban government-operated Empresa Cubana Importadora de Alimentos (Alimport) under the auspices of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Trade. Alimport is responsible for meeting domestic consumption needs, including ingredients for food manufacturers. The import needs of the food service industry are met by government companies which own hotel chains and foreign joint venture importers.

In the early 1990's as the Cuban economy opened up to private enterprise and the U.S. dollar was allowed to legally circulate on the island, imports of foreign agricultural products began to swell. In order to deal with the growing wave of food imports, beginning in 1992 Cuban authorities enacted stricter import laws and regulations. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for regulating imports of bulk and intermediate agricultural products into Cuba. Similarly, the Cuban Ministry of Health is responsible for regulating imports of consumer-ready foods. Each of these Ministries has its own legislation governing imports of food products. In addition to enacting stricter legislation, Cuba has also sought to improve its enforcement as well. Enforcement is carried out mostly at the port of entry where scrutiny can be intense, and at the importer warehouse level. Since practically all retail establishments are state controlled enterprises, enforcement at the retail level is minimal at best. Overall enforcement in Cuba is not unlike what it is in many Latin American countries, where lack of resources and other factors can undermine government efforts.

Following the historic sale of U.S. agricultural products to Cuba in late 2001, the U.S. trade has a growing expectation of further and more constant agricultural trade with Cuba. It is important to note that while several regulatory issues remain open given the lack of diplomatic relations between the two countries, it is apparent that Cuban officials are willing to accept USDA export certificates. In fact, although Cuba does not recognize USDA as an official regulatory agency, USDA export certificates are required for bulk grain and meat products, particularly for fresh, frozen, and canned meats. Please note that as of the date of this report, the diplomatic status between the United States and Cuba did not

allow USDA officials to contact Cuban government officials. Therefore, we encourage U.S. exporters to work closely with the importer and/or the Cuban government for further information.

## SECTION II. LABELING REQUIREMENTS

All food products are required to be labeled in Spanish. This is a key requirement to which no exceptions are made. Multilingual labels are accepted as long as Spanish is one of the languages included on the label. Stick-on labels are generally allowed in order to comply with the Spanish language requirement. Although the entire label is required to be in Spanish, the three most important items which health authorities will look for in Spanish are the list of ingredients, the expiration date, and the country of origin.

Following is the information required by Cuban law on all food product labels:

### 1. List of ingredients.

A complete list of ingredients, preferably in descending order by weight, should be clearly stated on the label.

### 2. Nutritional facts.

Although nutritional facts are a mandatory labeling requirement for food products, the Ministry of Health places little emphasis on this matter and does very little to enforce its own nutritional requirements. The standard U.S. nutritional fact panel is fully acceptable in Cuba. Recommended Daily Intake (RDI) information, which is usually part of the nutritional fact panel on U.S. labels, is not required. The use of nutrient content claims (i.e. "low in saturated fat"), absolute descriptors (i.e. "high-fiber" or "low fat") and relative descriptors (i.e. "*reduced* sugar" or "*light* in sodium") are all acceptable. The same applies to implied claims and health claims made of food products.

### 3. Expiration date.

Open dating statements commonly used in the United States such as "Best if used by," may not be acceptable in Cuba. Cuban health authorities, who place a high degree of importance on this requirement, strongly prefer to see a finite expiration date on all food labels. Health authorities may show leniency in allowing shipments to enter Cuba with open dating statements, but this leniency is likely to be short-lived.

### 4. Country of origin

U.S. exporters should take special care in complying with the country of origin requirement as well. Many U.S. products simply state the manufacturer's or packer's city and state only. As is the case in many other countries, Cuban health authorities require the country of origin to be explicitly stated on the label. Therefore, either "USA" must be added to the address or the label must contain statements such as "Product of USA" or "Made in USA" in order to clearly identify the product's origin. As with the

expiration date requirement, leniency regarding the country of origin requirement is likely to be short-lived. U.S. exporters are urged to take the necessary steps to fully comply with Cuban labeling requirements, particularly those relating to expiration date and country of origin.

#### 5. Net content.

The net content of the product must be expressed in metric units.

In addition to the above labeling requirements, Cuban authorities may also refer to internationally accepted Codex Alimentarius (Codex) standards if discrepancies with foreign labels exist. Codex, also known as the "food code," is a set of scientifically-based and globally-recognized standards, codes of practice, guidelines and recommendations for food products.

U.S. products may enter with the standard U.S. label, but they must also display an additional stick-on label specifying all the information outlined above. It is recommended that any stick-on labels be affixed on the product prior to arrival in Cuba so that the product is fully compliant at the port of entry and the customs clearance process is not delayed. As mentioned earlier, the port of entry is the main point of enforcement. It is worth noting that while stick-on labels will fulfill import requirements in the short term, U.S. companies seeking to export food products to Cuba over the long run should label their products according to Cuban requirements without the use of stick-on labels (to avoid any possible complications at the port of entry).

Samples and institutional packed products for the food service industry are not contemplated in Cuban labeling regulations. However, in the case of institutional packed products, health authorities normally do not expect to see all the information required on labels of retail products. The boxes or cases in which institutional products are shipped must be labeled with the name or description of the product and with the product size. The products themselves should be individually labeled with the same information as well. Nonetheless, in order to avoid problems associated with government inspectors using their discretion in terms of labeling compliance, it is recommended that samples as well as institutional packed products be labeled the same as retail products.

Additional information pertaining to lot codes, artificial additives, special shelf-life considerations (i.e. "refrigerate after opening"), manufacturer name and address, importer name and address, and Cuban sanitary registration number (once obtained) is not required on labels. However, it is highly recommended that this type of information be included on the label when available so that health officials have no reason to question compliance with their broader standards.

Cuba has no specific standards regarding irradiated food products. U.S. standards on this subject are acceptable.

The Ministry of Health's Food Labeling and Registration Department may grant exceptions to the

labeling of products if they are processed, packed, or repacked in Cuba's Duty Free Zone. Contingent upon government approval and subject to government supervision, importers may label the products in the Duty Free Zone according to the standards set by the Ministry of Health. Although this practice is allowed, this is seldom the case given that the "Duty Free Zone" is normally used for the importation of raw materials and inputs which are further processed into value-added export products.

### **SECTION III. PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS**

Although not regulated by the Cuban government, food containers should be adequately sized for each market segment. The food service sector for the tourists is accustomed to larger sizes much the same as in the United States. However, the 10,000 small, in-home restaurants, known as "paladares," prefer smaller sizes since their purchasing power, storage capability and daily needs are relatively small.

The Cuban retail sector exhibits certain characteristics which result in different packaging demands as well. Cuban consumers buy more frequently and in smaller sizes than their U.S. counterparts given tighter disposable income levels. For instance, an estimated 90 percent of cooking oil is sold in one liter containers. While the four gallon size is also available and offers greater overall value to the consumer, the majority of the population simply cannot afford the larger size. The same applies to many products, particularly tomato sauce, spaghetti, and mayonnaise.

Cuba has no special Municipal Waste Disposal Laws or product recycling regulations. The manufacturer has the flexibility to use any packaging material as long as its acceptable for use with food products. PVC and similar materials are fully acceptable in Cuba.

### **SECTION IV. FOOD ADDITIVE REGULATIONS**

Cuban law does not cite any major restrictions at all on additives. Thus, if the additive is recognized as being suitable for human consumption, particularly by Codex standards, it is considered acceptable by the Cuban Ministry of Health. With few exceptions, U.S. food additive laws either meet or are stricter than Codex standards.

A complete list of additives that are acceptable by the Cuban Ministry of Health may be obtained directly from the Ministry's Food Labeling and Registration Department listed in Appendix I. U.S. exporters wishing to introduce a food product into Cuba containing a new additive, should contact the above specified agency and be prepared to submit the proper documentation/samples for scientific analysis prior to approval. Please see Appendix I for contact information.

### **SECTION V. PESTICIDE AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS**

The Ministry of Health is the agency charged with regulating pesticide/contaminant residues in foodstuffs. In Cuba a wide array of pesticides/contaminants are used on crops. The Ministry uses its

own list of approved products and acceptable tolerance levels for each. U.S. exporters may obtain a copy of such list by contacting the Ministry's Food Labeling and Registration Department. As a general rule of thumb, Codex maximum residue limits are acceptable in most foodstuffs. In most cases U.S. food laws either meet or are stricter than Codex pesticide/contaminant standards. A pesticide/contaminant suspected of affecting the food supply or producing illness is swiftly removed from the market and analyzed by the Ministry of Health to determine its effects on the consumer.

## **SECTION VI. OTHER REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

Prior to exporting any agricultural product to Cuba, U.S. exporters should ascertain whether their products will require a phytosanitary import permit in the case of plant products or a zoosanitary import permit in the case of animal products. These permits, issued by the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture, are normally obtained by the importing party. Products subject to this requirement usually include grains, grain products, fruits and vegetables, meats and other agricultural products which may pose a risk to either plant or animal health. Most consumer-ready foods are exempt from this requirement. U.S. exporters should be aware that the Ministry of Agriculture may require a visit by one of its officials to production, processing, treatment, handling, storage and/or shipping facilities in the country of origin prior to granting a sanitary import permit for certain agricultural products.

The following is usually required to obtain a sanitary import permit from the Ministry of Agriculture:

1. Commercial name of the product;
2. Scientific name of the product (if applicable);
3. Use of the product;
4. Method of transportation into Cuba;
5. Country of origin; and
6. Country from which the product is being delivered to Cuba.

Sanitary import permits usually specify any additional import requirements such as export certifications from the country of origin. USDA export certifications may be required for many of the same products requiring import permits (i.e. bulk grain, meats, etc.). Despite a recent understanding between the USDA and the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture on certification requirements for commodity shipments which took place in late 2001 and early 2002, the lack of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba has prevented any formal agreements from being reached on this matter. Consequently, until such agreements are in place, certification requirements may be subject to change. U.S. exporters are therefore advised to verify with USDA on a case-by-case basis the current export certification requirements for products shipped to Cuba. Contact information for the appropriate USDA agencies can be found in Appendix IV.

All consumer-ready food and beverage products, with the exception of pet foods, must be registered prior to importation with the Ministry of Health's Food Labeling and Registration Department. Once a

product has been registered, any licensed importer can import the product into the country without the use of letters of authorization granted by the registering party.

The following documentation is required in order to register a food or beverage product in Cuba:

1. Sanitary Certificate stating that the product is suitable for human consumption;
2. Certificate of Health from the state where the product is produced or manufactured;
3. A quantitative and qualitative analysis of the product (commonly known as Q&Q formula) with a list of ingredients;
4. Meat products must have a USDA/FSIS certificate from the meat packing establishment where they originated; and
5. A sample of the product (including the label) in its commercial presentation.

All documents must be originals and must be translated into Spanish. Both sets of documents (English and Spanish) must be presented at the time of registration. All original documents should be notarized. However, Apostilles, state certifications that notaries are duly registered, are not required.

The entire sanitary registration process takes approximately 15 to 30 days depending on the workload of the Food Labeling and Registration Department and of the laboratory conducting the analysis of the samples. Laboratory bottlenecks are not uncommon. The cost for each individual registration is approximately \$130 plus any service fees assessed by the agency carrying out the registration. It is common for private or semi-private legal firms specializing in these sort of government processes to handle the registration. A list of firms possibly offering this sort of service can be found in Appendix II.

While there is no minimum size requirement for samples, U.S. exporters should use common sense in providing sample sizes/quantities which are ample enough for laboratory analysis. Samples must be accompanied by all certificates and documents outlined above and they must also be labeled "Samples, Not for Resale-No Commercial Value."

Pursuant to the U.S. economic sanctions on Cuba, any person seeking to send any goods, including samples of agricultural products for sanitary registration purposes, from the United States to Cuba directly or indirectly must first obtain authorization from the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Export Administration (USDOC/BXA). Authorization may be made in the form of an individual validated license or by a determination that goods fall within a "licensing exception" that covers those goods with a blanket authorization. Under current USDOC/BXA rules, exporting samples to Cuba is no easy matter. No mail service directly between the two countries exists. Moreover, current regulations prohibit courier services from transporting goods to Cuba. Most of the goods moving from the United States to Cuba are donations of medicines and food products sent between family members. These move by air cargo companies authorized by USDOC/BXA. However, air cargo companies licensed to carry products other than donated foods and medicines are few and far between and thus they offer little continuity in service.



Traveling to Cuba to personally take product samples can also prove cumbersome. The U.S. Treasury Department Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) administers the Cuban Assets Control Regulations that in part prohibit persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction from "engaging in travel-related transactions" in Cuba, an effective ban on travel to the island, without OFAC consent. The OFAC Office in Miami, Florida handles requests for travel in connection with sales, export, re-export or servicing of agricultural goods. An authorized traveler may use the direct charter flights between the United States and Cuba (from Miami, New York or Los Angeles) or may travel by another route. In the United States, only "travel service providers" (akin to travel agents) authorized by OFAC may assist an authorized traveler to obtain a Cuban visa, make reservations on a charter flight, and answer the myriad of questions. Many of these also work with donations to Cuba and thus are familiar with U.S. regulations governing exports to Cuba. An authorized traveler on a charter flight could transport a limited amount of authorized goods as luggage, depending on the airline's rules. Therefore, this last alternative seems the most viable for transporting food samples to Cuba at the present time. See Appendix IV for USDOC/BXA and OFAC contact information, including a link to OFAC's website detailing a list of authorized travel service providers.

Travelers carrying food samples into Cuba are required to declare the products to Cuban Customs. For products subject to special import requirements (i.e. meat products), Customs may request additional authorization/documentation by the appropriate regulatory agency. As a general rule of thumb, the declared value of the merchandise, which as mentioned earlier should read "No Commercial Value" in the case of samples, will be accepted. Customs rulings involving decisions taken against travelers or their luggage may be appealed. Initial claims should be made to the Chief of the Customs unit where the ruling was originally made. Claims can be escalated to the next highest level if need be.

Although compliance with health standards is verified mostly at the port of entry and at the importer warehouse level, the Cuban government does exercise some control, albeit on a very limited basis, at the retail level. When random inspections by health officials uncover irregularities such as spoiled product or product past its expiration, the product is usually confiscated. Store managers may be penalized depending on the severity of the violation. The same applies at the wholesale level, except here the scrutiny is more intense. At this level the penalties for violations are also higher. In addition to product confiscation and fines, penalties may also include total removal of the product from the island and temporary suspension of import privileges for the particular item in question.

## **SECTION VII. OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS**

Information on other specific standards and regulations impacting imported foods is not available. However, it should be noted that vitamins and nutritional products are considered pharmaceutical in nature and they are not sold in supermarkets or retail food stores. These types of products are sold in pharmacies only.

## **SECTION VIII. COPYRIGHT AND/OR TRADEMARK LAWS**



All trademarks and brand names registered in Cuba are protected under Cuba law. Trademark registration with the Cuban Office of Trademarks and Patents is voluntary, but it is highly recommended that U.S. exporters shipping their products to Cuba make every effort to register their trademarks and brand names there. U.S. exporters should know that the foreign owner of a trademark need not grant authorization in order for someone to register a trademark. As a result, trademarks and brand names may be registered in Cuba without the consent or knowledge of the actual owners. Only legal firms specializing in this sort of work are allowed to conduct trademark registration (see Appendix II for a list of such firms). For further information on the trademark registration process, U.S. exporters should contact such firms.

Applicable laws governing trademark registration include:

1. Decree No. 68: Inventions, Scientific Discoveries, Industrial Models, Trademarks and Denominations of Origin (May 14, 1983);
2. Decree No. 160: Patent Applications concerning the Pharmaceutical and Agricultural Chemical Products (June 9, 1995)
3. Decree No. 203: Trademarks and Other Distinctive Signs (May 5, 2000)

U.S. companies have registered nearly 4,000 trademarks and brand names of a total of about 60,000 currently registered in Cuba. Many of the registered U.S. trademarks belong to well established and recognizable food products.

## **SECTION IX. IMPORT PROCEDURES**

The customs clearance process begins with submittal of the customs merchandise declaration by the importer. This declaration must be accompanied by the following documents:

1. Shipping documents (i.e. bill of lading, export certifications were applicable, etc.)
2. Commercial invoice
3. Packing list
4. Certificate of Origin (if most favored nation status for duty purposes or other benefits are being claimed)

One very important point is that all documents must be translated into Spanish. Cuban Customs does offer some leeway in terms of the documentation. For instance, Proforma invoices are temporarily accepted. Importers are also allowed to submit Customs declarations in advance of shipment arrivals, and make temporary or incomplete declarations when all the information necessary for clearance is not readily available. However, a commitment to submit a complete declaration and all the remaining documentation is required.

Shipments are inspected and cleared at three different levels. At the first level, merchandise goes through any of three channels: green, orange or red. In the green channel, neither the documents nor the merchandise are inspected. In the orange channel, the documents are reviewed to determine if a physical inspection of the merchandise is required. In the red channel, clearance is granted only after the merchandise has been physically inspected. According to Cuban Customs, 90 percent of all shipments move through the green channel in the first stage. In the second clearance level, the documentation is reviewed again to determine if any errors in classification, valuation, or duty assessment may exist. When errors or inconsistencies are found, corrections are made and administrative sanctions may be applied to importers or customs agents when malicious intent or negligence are the case. The third and final level of clearance involves post clearance inspections, which may take place up to five years after the merchandise is imported into the country.

A licensed Customs Broker must be hired for the entire Customs clearance process to flow smoothly (see Appendix III for a list of Cuban Customs Brokers). Customs clearance time may vary depending on the volume of cargo entering Cuba at any given time and the number of documents required for specific merchandise. The entire process may take one to three weeks depending on the effectiveness of the Customs Broker as well. Cuba's socialist system has many bureaucratic layers and the Customs Department is no exception. Scrutiny of the import process can be quite intense and thus time consuming. Information contained in the Bill of Lading and pertaining to the consignee must also be complete and accurate. Discrepancies in this regard will surely delay the clearance process.

Decisions by Customs officials to reject merchandise may be appealed. Depending on the grounds for rejection, the head of the Customs Department or the Minister of Health will have the final say on whether or not merchandise can be imported into the country.

Applicable laws governing Customs procedures include:

1. Decree No. 124: Customs Duties of the Republic of Cuba (October 1990);
2. Decree No. 162: Customs Law of the Republic of Cuba (May 1996)
3. Decree No. 207: Customs Administrative Infractions (May 1996)

It should be noted that Cuba uses the nomenclature of the harmonized system up to 8 digits. Duties for most favored nations average 10.7 percent and for all others, including the United States, it does not exceed 17 percent in most cases. Raw materials carry a duty of 5 to 15 percent. Over 90 percent of subheadings have a duty of less than 15 percent and only 8 percent of subheadings have a duty above 20 percent.

## **APPENDIX I. GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS**

Dr. José Piñon Vega  
Jefe de Despacho, Oficina de Ministro (Chief of Staff, Minister's Office)  
Ministerio de Salud Pública (Ministry of Public Health)  
Calle 23, No. 201 entre M y N Vedado  
Plaza Revolución  
Habana, Cuba CP 10400  
Tel: 011 (537) 55-3377, 55-3354, 55-3386, 55-3406 & 07, 55-3332, 55-3345  
Fax: n/a  
E-mail: n/a

Dr. Jorge R. Díaz Fernández  
Director  
Instituto de Nutricion y Sanidad de Alimentos\* (Institute of Nutrition and Food Safety\*)  
Infanta No. 1158 entre Linás y Clavel  
Centro de la Habana  
Habana, Cuba CP 10300  
Tel: 011 (537) 78-1429, 78-5919, 70-0183  
Fax: 011 (537) 33-8313  
E-mail: [inha@infomed.sld.cu](mailto:inha@infomed.sld.cu) or [macondo@infomed.sld.cu](mailto:macondo@infomed.sld.cu)

*\* This agency is charged with developing research related to food and nutrition as well as with preventing illnesses associated with food quality. This agency also acts as the National Reference Center of the Ministry of Public Health on matters pertaining to nutrition and represents Cuba within the World Health Organization.*

Dirección de Relaciones Internacionales \* (International Relations Directorate\*)  
Oficina Nacional de Normalización (National Standards Office)  
Calle E No. 261 entre 11 y 13  
Vedado - La Habana 10400  
Tel: 011 (537) 30-0022, 30-0835, 30-0825  
Fax: 011 (537) 33-8048  
E-mail: [ncnorma@ceniai.inf.cu](mailto:ncnorma@ceniai.inf.cu)

*\* This agency is the Codex Commission point of contact in Cuba.*

Dr. Carlos Delgado Ortega  
Jefe de los Servicios Veterinarios de Frontera (Chief Border Vet. Services)  
Instituto de Medicina Veterinaria (Institute of Vet. Medicine)  
Calle 12 #355 E/ 15 y 17  
Vedado, Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba CP 10400  
Tel: 011 (537) 37-330

Fax: 011 (537) 30-3537

E-mail: [imv@ceniai.inf.cu](mailto:imv@ceniai.inf.cu)

E-mail: Ing. Máximo R. Martínez

Director de Cuarentena Vegetal (Plant Quarantine Director)

Ayuntamiento No. 231

e/ Lombillo y San Pedro

Plaza Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Tel: 011 (537) 81-4668, 78-4976

Fax: 011 (537) 70-3277, 79-6654

E-mail: [cnsv@ceniai.inf.cu](mailto:cnsv@ceniai.inf.cu)

Oficina Cubana de la Propiedad Intelectual (Cuban Office of Intellectual Property)

Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente (Ministry of Science, Technology & Environment)

Picota No. 15 Entre Luz y Acosta

La Habana Vieja C.P. 10100

Habana, Cuba

Tel: 011 (537) 624-395 / 624-379

Fax: 011 (537) 335-610

E-mail: [ocpi@ocpi.cu](mailto:ocpi@ocpi.cu)

Website: <http://www.ocpi.cu>

Pedro Ramón Pupo Pérez

Director

Cuban Customs

Calle 6, Esquina a 39, Plaza Revolución

Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba CP 10600

Tel: 011 (573) 55-5466 to 70

Telefax: 011 (573) 33-5222, 81-5631

Website: <http://www.aduana.islagrande.cu>

## **APPENDIX II. CUBAN FIRMS SPECIALIZING IN TRADEMARK AND/OR SANITARY REGISTRATION**

Ada Acosta Martínez

LEX, S.A.

Servicios Jurídicos de Marcas y Patentes

Calle 1ra No. 1001, Esquina 10

Miramar, Playa

Habana, Cuba  
Tel: 011 (537) 24-9093  
Fax: 011 (537) 24-9533  
E-mail: [lexsa@colombus.cu](mailto:lexsa@colombus.cu)

Rebeca García Monroy  
Bufete Internacional  
Casa Matriz  
5ta. avenida No. 16 202  
Esquina 162, Miramar, Playa  
Habana, Cuba.  
Tel: 011 (537) 24-6749  
Fax: 011 (537) 24-6750  
E-mail: [bufete@bufete.cha.cyt.cu](mailto:bufete@bufete.cha.cyt.cu)

Rogelio Rafael Valdéz Pila  
CLAIM, Consultores de Marcas y Patentes  
Lamparilla # 2. Lonja del Comercio. Oficina 6. Habana Vieja. Ciudad de La Habana. CP 10100  
Tel: 011 (537) 33-0743 y 330755  
Fax: 011 (537) 33-0746  
E-mail: [secretaria@claim.com.cu](mailto:secretaria@claim.com.cu)

Ms. María Antonia Carrillo de Albornoz y Martínez  
CONAS, Consultores Asociados  
5ta. avenida No. 2 201, esquina 22, Miramar, Playa, Ciudad de La Habana.  
Tel: 011 (537) 24-0207 & 24-2988  
Fax: 011 (537) 24-4320  
E-mail: [conas@mail.infocom.etecsa.cu](mailto:conas@mail.infocom.etecsa.cu)

Dania Teresita Galvéz Fernández  
Consultoría Jurídica Internacional  
Calle 16 No. 314, entr 3ra y 5ta. avenida, Miramar, Playa, Ciudad de La Habana.  
Teléfonos: (537) 24 2437 and 24 4090  
Fax: (537) 24 2303  
E-mail: [cji@cji.get.cma.net](mailto:cji@cji.get.cma.net)

Ms Alina Edward Copperi  
General Manager  
Rado y Asociados, S.A.  
Calle de los Oficios 152 esq. a Amargura  
Piso 4

Habana Vieja, Ciudad de la Habana

Tel: 011 (537) 33-8186, 33-8039, 33-9400, 66-6235 and 66-6236

Fax: 011 (537) 33-8185

e-mail: [rado@rado.get.tur.cu](mailto:rado@rado.get.tur.cu) , [rado@rado.co.cu](mailto:rado@rado.co.cu)

*While it impractical to provide a complete list of Cuban firms which offer trademark and sanitary registration services, this partial list is furnished with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no guarantee of reliability is implied.*

### **APPENDIX III. CUBAN CUSTOMS AGENTS**

ADESA, S.A.

Prado # 20, Esq. San Lazaro, C. Habana

Tel: 011 (537) 33-8691, 33-8690, 33-8581

Fax: 011 (537) 33-8044

AEROVARADERO, S.A.

Carretera Wajay Km 1/2. Aijm. Boyeros.cdad. Habana

Tel: 011 (537) 66-6009

Fax: 011 (537) 33-4126

Almacenes Universales, S.A.

Desamparados # 166 E/ Habana y Compostela, Habana Vieja

Tel: 011 (537) 66-9864, 66-9865, 63-5497

Fax: 011 (537) 66-9865

ARANDIA, S.A.

Calle 3ra y Final, La Puntilla, Playa, C. Habana

Tel: 011 (537) 24-8655

Fax: 011 (537) 24-8-654

ASTRAD

Calzada # 2 Esq. A Calle 2, Plaza, C. Habana

Tel: 011 (537) 98-5030, 99-3544, 93-4010

Fax: 011 (537) 93-7573

Consignataria Maritima Caribeña

Lonja Del Comercio, Local J, Habana Vieja, C. Habana

Tel: 011 (537) 66-9095 / 96

Fax: 011 (537) 66-9097

Coral Container Lines, S.A.

Oficios # 170 E/ Amargura y Tte. Rey, C. Habana

Tel: 011 (537) 57-0854, 61-2630, 57-0925

Fax: 011 (537) 33-8115

CUBACONTROL, S.A.

Calle 26 Esq. A Conill, Plaza, C. Habana

Tel: 011 (537) 55-5732, 55-5739, 81-3575

Fax: 011 (537) 55-5738

CUBANACAN EXPRESS, S.A.

180 # 111 E/ 5ta y 1ra, Playa, C. Habana

Tel: 011 (537) 33-7404, 33-7419, 33-7506

Fax: 011 (537) 33-7404

CUBAPACK, S.A.

22 # 4115 E/ 41 y 47, Playa, C. Habana

Tel: 011 (537) 24-2817, 24-2134

Fax: 011 (537) 24-2226

INTERMAR

Obispo # 361, Habana Vieja, C. Habana

Tel: 011 (537) 33-8222, 57-1221 to 24

Fax: 011 (537) 33-8020

Naviera Cubana Caribeña

25 #3105 Esq. A 33, Nueva Gerona, Isla de La Juventud

Tel: 011 (537) 63-0330 (Havana Office)

Fax: n/a

OTM Central Cargo

Infanta # 1115 E/ Benjumeda y Santo Tomás, Centro Habana,

Tel: 011 (537) 57-5644 to 46

Fax: 011 (537) 33-5338

Palacio de Convenciones

146 # 1107 E/ 11 y 13, Playa, C. Habana

Tel: 011 (537) 21-0758, 21-6111

Fax: 011 (537) 21-6111

SERVITALLY



Desamparados S/n Esq. A Compostela, Habana Vieja, C. Habana  
Tel: 011 (537) 57-1423, 66-9138  
Fax: 011 (537) 66-9138

**TECNOTEX**

Edificio "La Marina", Habana Vieja, C. Habana  
Tel: 011 (537) 61-3536, 61-0641, 61-1538  
Fax: 011 (537) 66-6270

**TRANSCARGO, S.A.**

San Pedro # 1, Habana Vieja, C. Habana  
Tel: 011 (537) 62-2425, 62-3416, 33-8125  
Fax: 011 (537) 33-8626

**CUTISA, S.A.**

Calzada # 818 E/ 2 y 4, Plaza, C. Hab.  
Tel: 011 (537) 33-4351 / 52  
Fax: 011 (537) 334351

*While it impractical to provide a complete list of Cuban customs agents, this partial list is furnished with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no guarantee of reliability is implied.*

**APPENDIX IV. OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST CONTACTS**

**A. U.S. Government Contacts**

Caribbean Basin Agricultural Trade Office  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
909 SE 1<sup>st</sup>. Ave Suite 720  
Miami, FL 33131  
Tel: (305) 536-5300  
Fax: (305) 536-7577  
E-mail: [cbato@attglobal.net](mailto:cbato@attglobal.net)  
website: <http://www.cbato.fas.usda.gov>

Margie Bauer, Director  
E-mail: [cbato@attglobal.net](mailto:cbato@attglobal.net)

Omar González, Deputy Director  
E-mail: [omarg01@attglobal.net](mailto:omarg01@attglobal.net)

Graciela Juelle, Admin. Assistant  
E-mail: [gjuelle@attglobal.net](mailto:gjuelle@attglobal.net)

Phytosanitary Issues Management  
Plant Protection & Quarantine  
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

4700 River Road, Unit 140  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1237  
Tel: (301) 734-8262  
Fax: (301) 734-7639  
Website: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

Office of International Affairs  
Federal Grain Inspection Service  
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave. S.W.  
Stop 3620, Room 1627  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3620  
Tel: (202) 720-0226  
Fax: (202) 720-1015  
E-mail: [fgis-ims@gipsadc.usda.gov](mailto:fgis-ims@gipsadc.usda.gov)  
Website: <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa>  
Information for Grain Exporters: <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/international/exporterinfo.htm>

Export Staff  
Technical Service Center  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1299 Farnam St.  
Landmark Center, Suite 300  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102  
Tel: (402) 221-7400  
Fax: (402) 221-7438  
E-mail: [tech.center@usda.gov](mailto:tech.center@usda.gov)  
Website: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>  
Poultry export requirements for Cuba: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OFO/export/cuba.htm>

Office of Strategic Trade & Foreign Policy Controls  
Bureau of Export Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C.  
Tel: (202) 482-3283  
Fax: (202) 482-6088  
Website: <http://www.bxa.doc.gov>

Office of Foreign Assets Control

U.S. Department of Treasury  
909 SE, First Ave, Suite 736  
Miami, FL 33131  
Tel: (305) 810-5140  
Fax on Demand Service: (202) 622-0077  
Website: <http://www.treas.gov/ofac>  
OFAC-Authorized Travel Service Providers: [http://www.treas.gov/ofac/cuba\\_tsp.pdf](http://www.treas.gov/ofac/cuba_tsp.pdf)

B. Non-U.S. Government Contacts

John Kavulich  
President  
U.S.-Cuba Trade and Economic Council, Inc.  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10112-0002  
Tel: (212) 246-1444  
Fax: (212) 246-2345  
Website: <http://www.cubatrade.org>

Kirby Jones  
ALAMAR Associates  
2000 L Street NW Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: (202) 530-5234  
Fax: (202) 530-5235  
E-mail: [Alacuba@aol.com](mailto:Alacuba@aol.com)  
Website: <http://www.alamarcuba.com>

Carlos Alamilla  
AVATAR Ltd. Corp.  
1825 Ponce de León Blvd. #214  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
Tel: (305) 358-4175  
Fax: (305) 373-2728  
E-mail: [carlosalamilla@hotmail.com](mailto:carlosalamilla@hotmail.com)

Buró de Información (Bureau of Information)  
Cámara de Comercio de la República de Cuba (Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Cuba)  
Calle 21 Esquina A, Vedado

Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Tel: 011 (537) 55-1321/22, 55-1324, 55-1931, 55-1452

Fax: 011 (537) 33-3042

E-mail: [bic@camaracuba.com.cu](mailto:bic@camaracuba.com.cu)

Website: <http://www.camaracuba.cu>

## **APPENDIX V. USEFUL WEBSITES/LINKS**

### **A. U.S. Government websites/links.**

#### **1. <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/cuba/cuba.html>**

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service website. This site contains the following information related to Cuba:

- a. Answers to frequently asked questions;
- b. General agricultural background;
- c. Commodity fact sheets;
- d. U.S. foreign policy, travel guidance, and general background information;
- e. Export & trade guidance (with links to USDOC/BXA and OFAC websites);
- f. Trade data; and
- g. U.S. Legislation (Trade Sanctions Reform & Export Enhancement Act of 2000)

In addition, <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/sanctions.html> provides:

- a. Federal Register Notices for exports of agricultural commodities to Cuba;
- b. A list of eligible agricultural commodities under Section 902(1) of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-387).

#### **2. <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>**

USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service website. This site offers a variety of information on APHIS activities and programs, including information on APHIS' Phytosanitary Issues Management (<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/text/pim/>), such as basic program description, answers to frequently asked questions, and information on phytosanitary certification.

#### **3. <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa>**

USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (Federal Grain Inspection Service) website. This website contains specific information for grain exporters (<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/international/exporterinfo.htm>), including information on registering with

FGIS, grain certification, and useful links.

4. <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

USDA's Food Safety & Inspection Service website. This site contains poultry export requirements for Cuba (<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OFO/export/cuba.htm>) as well as information on FSIS certification. It also contains contact information for the FSIS Technical Service Center (<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OFO/TSC/>), where exporters can seek assistance on export requirements.

5. <http://www.bxa.doc.gov>

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Export Administration website. Click on the options listed under "Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act implemented" for BXA regulations, answers to frequently asked questions, and other useful information.

6. <http://www.treas.gov/ofac/ofactxt.html>

U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control website. This site offers an overview of Cuban assets control regulations and guidelines and information on the Cuba sanctions program, including information on travel restrictions to Cuba. A list of OFAC-Authorized Travel Service Providers can be found at : [http://www.treas.gov/ofac/cuba\\_tsp.pdf](http://www.treas.gov/ofac/cuba_tsp.pdf)

7. <ftp://ftp.usitc.gov/pub/reports/studies/pub3398.pdf>

U.S. International Trade Commission Report (Publication 3398): Economic Impact of U.S. Trade Sanctions With Respect to Cuba, Investigation No. 332-413. February 2001.

8. <http://state.gov/r/pa/bgn/index.cfm?docid=2886>

U.S. Department of State website. This site offers general background information on Cuba.

9. <http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook>

Central Intelligence Agency's World Factbook website. The World Factbook provides general information on Cuba and other countries around the globe.

B. Non-U.S. Government websites/links.

1. <http://www.cubatrade.org>

Website of the U.S.-Cuba Trade and Economic Council, whose purpose is to provide an efficient and sustainable educational structure in which the United States business community may access accurate, consistent, and timely information and analysis on matters and issues of interest regarding United States-Republic of Cuba commercial, economic, and political relations. The U.S.-Cuba Trade and Economic Council does not take positions with respect to United States-Republic of Cuba political relations.

*English.*

2. <http://www.camaracuba.cu>

Cuban Chamber of Commerce website. This site offers information on their trade services, directories, and numerous links to other useful Cuban websites. *Spanish only.*

3. <http://www.aduana.islagrande.cu>

Cuban Customs website. This site offers detailed information on Customs clearance legislation, requirements, procedures, and other useful information. *English & Spanish.*

4. <http://www.ocpi.cu>

Cuban Office of Intellectual Property website. This site offers information on trademark/brand name registration including a list of legal firms offering registration services. *Spanish only.*

5. <http://www.cubanwhitepages.com>

On-line telephone directory for Cuba. *English & Spanish.*

